

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10

HA-05 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ABF-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /135 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7919

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, UNDRO, UNGA

SUBJ: 32ND UNGA SECOND COMMITTEE AND FIFTH COMMITTEE:

"OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF
COORDINATOR"

REF: (A) STATE 281419; (B) USUN 4882

1. SUMMARY: USUN REQUESTS DEPARTMENT CLARIFY DISASTER
RELIEF RESOLUTION INSTRUCTIONS. END SUMMARY

2. USUN HAS INTERPRETED REFTEL A PARAGRAPH 2 "WE WOULD
PREFER NOT TO COSPONSOR...", TO MEAN:

(A) U.S. COSPONSORSHIP WITH THE CURRENT LANGUAGE IS NOT
FORECLOSED, THOUGH SOFTENING OF THE PERTINENT PORTION IS
DESIRED; AND

(B) THAT THE SEGMENT OF OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 7 WHICH
TROUBLES THE DEPARTMENT IS THE LANGUAGE FOLLOWING UNITED
NATIONS RELIEF COORDINATOR, I.E. "...WITH A VIEW TO INCLUDING
IN THE DRAFT PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR 1980-81 PROPOSALS
FOR A FURTHER TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATE COSTS FROM VOLUNTARY
FUNDING TO THE UNITED NATIONS REGULAR BUDGET". BASED ON THE
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AFORESAID, SET FORTH BELOW IS ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION
RELATING TO REFTEL B.

3. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THE U.S. HAS TAKEN AN ACTIVE
ROLE IN THE CREATION, DIRECTION AND FINANCING OF
UNDRO. IN 1971 THE U.S., UK AND ELEVEN OTHERS COSPONSORED
A RESOLUTION WHICH WAS ADOPTED IN ECOSOC AND SUBSEQUENTLY

ENDORSED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RES. 2816 (XXVI)
WHICH, INTER ALIA "ENDORSES THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S
PROPOSALS FOR AN ADEQUATE PERMANENT OFFICE IN THE
UNITED NATIONS WHICH SHALL BE THE FOCAL POINT IN THE
UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR DISASTER RELIEF MATTERS".
WE HAVE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE SELECTION OF
PERSONNEL FOR UNDRO AND HAVE PROVIDED VOLUNTARY FUNDS FOR IT.

4. MORE RECENT U.S. STATEMENTS ON DISASTER RELIEF ARE
CONSISTENT WITH THIS BACKGROUND, AS FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE
SECRETARY'S SPEECH BEFORE THE OECD MINISTERIAL (JUNE
23, 1977) STRESSING THE CONNECTION BETWEEN NATURAL DISASTER
PREPARATIONS AND BASIC HUMAN NEEDS, OR AT THE
63RD ECOSOC.

5. OUR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS, HOWEVER, HAVE NOT
INCREASED NOR HAVE OTHER INITIAL DONORS BEEN WILLING TO
CONTINUE TO PAY THE COSTS OF EXPANDED UNDRO RESPONSIBILITIES.
(FYI WE ARE AUTHORIZED TO CONTRIBUTE \$250 THOUSAND IN
FY1978 TO UNDRO WHICH IS NO INCREASE OVER FY1977.
END FYI) THE USG IS OBVIOUSLY NOT IN A POSITION TO COMMIT
ITSELF TO PROSPECTIVELY PROVIDE ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO COVER
THE CORE ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRAM COSTS OF UNDRO.

6. WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES? EITHER
(A) UNDRO CORE ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRAM COSTS WILL BE
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FUNDED FROM REGULAR BUDGET RESOURCES;
(B) DONROS WILL UNDERTAKE THE NECESSARY FINANCING TO ASSURE
ITS PERMANENCY; OR
(C) UNDRO'S TENUOUS EXISTENCE IN THE UN SYSTEM
WILL BE UNDERCUT, ITS PERFORMANCE AND PRESTIGE FURTHER
REDUCED, AND IN DUE COURSE IT WILL DISAPPEAR. IT IS OUR
UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS LATTER COURSE IS NOT DESIRED:
ALTERNATIVE (B), THE PERMANENT VOLUNTARY FUNDING GUARANTEE
IS NOT POSSIBLE; THUS LEAVING ONLY ALTERNATIVE (A) AS
A SERIOUS, VIABLE, OPTION.

7. THIS IS OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE COSPONSOR'S VIEWS
AND THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THE PRESENT LANGUAGE WILL
PREVAIL AND THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED IN ITS PRESENT FORM.
INASMUCH AS THE U.S. IS ALREADY ON RECORD IN THE CASE
OF UNDRO IN FAVOR OF THE TRANSFER OF CORE COSTS TO THE
ASSESSED BUDGET (SEE GA 31/173 OP. PARAS 4,5), THE ISSUE
OF POLICY IS NOT AT STAKE, BUT RATHER HOW WE HANDLE THE
QUESTION, HOW WE DESCRIBE OUR POSITION TO OTHER DELEGATIONS,
REGARDLESS OF WHETHER WE MERELY SUPPORT OR CO-SPONSOR THE
RESOLUTION. WE WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S
CLARIFICATION OF INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN REFTTEL A.

SPECIFICALLY WE AR PERPLEXED BY THE TERM "EITHER
WAY" (REFTEL A, PARA 1) IN LIGHT OF THE FOREGOING.
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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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